GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1338
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2016
Scholarship Awarded to African Students
Nishank Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of scholarships awarded to various African countries in the field of higher education with a view to promote cooperation with them alongwith the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government is extending full cooperation to these countries in the field of skill development and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to open cultural centres in other countries of the world including Africa and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by Government to promote participation of Indian private companies in Africa; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide security to African students keeping in view recent attacks on them and the short term and long term steps taken to dispel the feeling of distrust among African students?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) Africa Scholarship Scheme was commenced in 2012. Till 2015-16 academic year 900 annual scholarship slots covering 54 countries in African continent were offered to pursue undergraduate, post graduate and Ph.D. courses in Indian Universities. These slots were increased from 900 to 1000 w.e.f. 2016-17 academic year. A total of 4184 civilian training slots are on offer to African countries (including Africa related multilateral agencies) under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme of the Ministry of External Affairs.

(b) Yes, the Government is extending full cooperation to African countries in the field of skill development.

â€¢ ICCR scholarships involve courses on technical, management and agriculture imparting field-specific education.

â€¢ Under the Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme (SCAAP), the ITEC programme are primarily focused on capacity building, skill development, transfer of technology and sharing of experiences with the partner countries. ITEC programme offered to the Professionals of beneficiary counries are short and medium term training courses designed on a wide and diverse range of skills and disciplines including English language, Information Technology, Finance & Accounts, Audit, Banking, Education Planning & Administration, Parliamentary Studies, Crime Records, Management, Environment, Telecommunication, Environment and Renewable Energy, SME and Rural Development etc.

â€¢ Under IAFS projects IT Centres and skill development/vocational training centres are also proposed to be established in various African countries.

(c) ICCR is in the process of establishing new Indian Cultural Centres in Washington and Paris. ICCR is already operating five Indian Cultural Centres in African countries, where the knowledge about various aspects of Indian culture like dance, music, yoga and languages is imparted to the local populace. These Centres are located in Egypt, South Africa (Johannesburg and Durban), Tanzania and Mauritius.

(d) Our Missions abroad are constantly engaged with the Indian private sector to promote their participation in the countries therein. The annual CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership brings together African governments, public and private sectors and their Indian counterparts. During recent visits by President, Vice President and Prime Minister to Africa (Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Mali) important Indian business delegations accompanied the dignitaries and held fruitful discussions with their African counterparts.

MEA's Economic Diplomacy Division (EDD) organized "I for Afrika" event in Mumbai from 27-30 September 2016, which was aimed in bringing the businessmen of India and Africa together. B2B meetings were held over the period of 3 days which led to the signing of 28 MoUs between Indian and African companies. More than 300 African delegates and about 1200 Indian businessmen participated in this event to promote India Africa commercial/trade relations. EDD also sponsors participation of Indian Businessmen and entrepreneurs in economic forums and exhibitions in Africa, which are aimed at promoting investments into India and Indian

investments in Africa. It brings out case studies/ write-ups/ publications on doing business in Africa.

DPA Division is engaged in carrying out projects in sectors such as civil aviation, energy, transport, ports, highways, telecommunications, electronics, software, auto, tourism, food processing and suggests opportunities to Indian businesses accordingly.

(e) ICCR Headquarters and its Regional Offices located in 20 cities across India constantly remain in touch with the law enforcement authorities and conduct periodic meetings with them to ensure safety and security of the students from African countries. ICCR sponsored students are oriented and sensitized regarding their safety and security.

ICCR has also written to State Chief Secretaries, Resident Commissioners, Police Commissioners of concerned States with regard to ensuring safety and security of the ICCR sponsored students studying under their respective jurisdictions. Chief Ministers have also been sensitized by EAM and MOSs.